

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
July 26, 2010  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:**           COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS  
                          COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.  
                          COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO  
                          COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH  
                          MAYOR GRAHAM

**ALSO PRESENT:**   MARY M. CORRIVEAU, CITY MANAGER

**City Staff Present:**   Ken Mix, Gene Hayes and Kurt Hauk

**Zoo Representatives Present:** Executive Director John Scott Foster and Zoo Board President Peter Schmitt

Mayor Graham opened the adjourned meeting at the Thompson Park Zoo.

**Decision on Art for Lachenauer Plaza Fountain**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH TO ACCEPT DESIGN D AS THE DESIGN FOR THE LACHENAUER PLAZA FOUNTAIN.**

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER.**

Council Member Burns explained that while she supported Design D at the last Council meeting, she has since talked with some downtown business owners and they wondered if a design on the fountain would be too much of a distraction for traffic. Therefore, she would now support just leaving the fountain painted blue. She commended the arts council for wanting to do something with the fountain. She also commended the artists that participated and commented that the artwork was all very good and could be used as murals on the side of buildings or even for potential billboards. She commented that when decisions were made on the downtown streetscape it was decided that the theme would be simple elegance. She suggested that she would like to make a motion to keep the fountain as it is.

Council Member Butler commented that the arts council spent a great deal of time on this project. He advised that he had not received a great deal of public input about this. He referred to the concerns over traffic distraction and remarked that there are already a number of

distractions in the downtown, including a great number of signs. He commented that if the design becomes problematic, it can be painted over with blue.

Council Member Macaluso remarked that a lot of time has been spent on this and to dismiss it would be wrong as Council owes it to the arts council to make a decision. She agreed with Council Member Burns with the concept of having this artistic talent displayed around the City.

Council Member Smith remarked that he understands the concerns of Council Member Burns. However, Design D is simple and if it didn't work out, it could be covered.

Mrs. Corriveau asked Council if they intended that the design would not be done in vinyl but would be painted on the fountain.

Council concurred that this was their desire.

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING MOTION AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA EXCEPT COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS VOTING NAY**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

**Donna M. Dutton**  
City Clerk

## **Discussion on the Aviary**

Council and representatives of the zoo met outside by the aviary and discussed the future of the aviary building.

Mr. Schmitt advised that whatever is done, it must meet the mission and vision of the zoo. He mentioned that it could be covered and used as a teaching center. He also mentioned that Council Member Smith's suggestion of a horticultural center would also be viable. He commented that their first choice would be to change its use, but keep it in place.

Discussion was held on demolition costs. Mr. Hayes explained that while he has no exact dollar figures, it would probably be around \$12,000 to \$15,000. The process would involve disassembling the building and scraping the steel, but leaving the foundation in place.

Dr. Foster commented that he would like to have a shared understanding today about the structure.

Mayor Graham responded that the City has an obligation to maintain its property. This renovation may involve doing it in stages. This structure has a heritage in City government. He remarked that we have an obligation to Mayor Burns as the aviary was an effort on his part to do the right thing for the zoo at that time.

Council Member Burns remarked that this would be a very nice project for a public/private partnership.

Dr. Foster commented that the pool in the aviary has to go because it doesn't work. He also commented that it really isn't an effective animal exhibit as it is now.

Both Dr. Foster and Mr. Schmitt agreed to have some individuals in the community, with the expertise in the needed materials and mission for the zoo, take a look at some ideas and to come up with some ideas and figures. Mr. Schmitt commented that, with the City's blessings, they will put together some plans and show Mr. Hayes first to make sure that they would be possible.

Mayor Graham commented that it comes down to the fact that not everything has to be grand and glorious.

Council Member Butler asked about other aviaries in New York State.

Dr. Foster explained that the ones that work are all inside a facility.

Mr. Schmitt advised that the zoo would get back to the City in the late fall.

Discussion ended at 7:35 p.m.